

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 H-02 PA-01

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R 101639Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

1. FEARN, ACTING HEAD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPT., FCO, CALLED RCAA ON JULY 10 TO EXPRESS SERIOUS HMG CONCERN OVER ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF CONGRESSMAN YATES TO INTRODUCE ON FLOOR OF HOUSE AN AMENDMENT TO FAA APPROPRIATIONS BILL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THAT: "NO FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THIS ACT FOR THE OPERATIONS ACTIVITY 'OPERATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS' NOR FOR THE SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF PERSONS OPERATING THAT SYSTEM, SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONTROL OF CIVIL SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN SCHEDULED OR NON-SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL SERVICE FOR LANDINGS WITHIN THE USA."

2. FEARN SAID HMG VIEWS THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH CONCERN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) IT WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN BRITAIN IF THIS ISSUE, WHICH IN RELATION TO CONCORDE HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS, WERE

TO BE DEALT WITH IN CONGRESS BY A PROCEDURAL
DEVICE AND WITHOUT PROPER DISCUSSION ON THE
MERITS OF THE CASE BY THE COMMITTEES WITH
SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AVIATION
MATTERS.

(B) BRITISH/FRENCH APPLICATION TO INITIATE
CONCORDE COMMERCIAL SERVICES TO THE US IS
ALREADY BEING PROCESSED UNDER REGULATORY PRO-
CEDURES WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS
TO DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS. BRITISH/FRENCH
ARE COOPERATING FULLY WITH THESE PROCEDURES,
WHICH THEY HAVE KNOWN WOULD BE REQUIRED.
THEY DO NOT, THEREFORE, UNDERSTAND WHY THESE
PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN THEIR
COURSE.

(C) BRITISH CONSIDER THE AMENDMENT ITSELF TO BE
ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY SINCE IT WOULD
EFFECTIVELY BAN CIVIL SSTs PER SE, IRRESPEC-
TIVE OF WHAT THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MIGHT
OR MIGHT NOT BE. UNILATERAL ACTION OF SUCH A
KIND WOULD HAVE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE
CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AFFAIRS.

3. FEARN NOTED THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS
ALREADY EXPRESSED VIEWS SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE TO THE
DEPARTMENT AND TO DOT. HE SAID HMG UNDERSTOOD CON-
STRAINTS IMPOSED ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS IN DEALING
WITH CONGRESS BECAUSE OF U.S. SEPARATION OF POWERS BUT
NEVERTHELESS BELIEVED SOME EXECUTIVE BRANCH EFFORTS TO
INFLUENCE CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE OUT OF PLACE IN PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES. BRITISH UNDERSTOOD YATES AMENDMENT MAY
BE INTRODUCED WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

4. FEARN SAID HMG ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT INFORMATION JUST
RECEIVED WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANS-
PORTATION FOR HEARINGS, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 24, ON NIXON-
HEATH AND NIXON-POMPIDOU LETTERS ON CONCORDE ARE DRAFTED
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SO LOOSELY AS TO PERMIT AIRING OF ANY AND ALL ISSUES RE-
LATING TO CONCORDE AND SSTs IN GENERAL. HMG WOULD HOPE
THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE MIGHT BE TIGHTENED UP TO PROVIDE
MORE SPECIFIC FOCUS FOR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING.

RICHARDSON

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